

Hobbies

Some gift-giving thoughts for those who love money

By Roger Boye

Today's column presents a stocking-full of gift ideas for people who collect money.

● **Security blanket.** Even the poorest collector can "feel like a million" wrapped in a 6-foot-long blanket adorned with the image of a fictional million-dollar bill. This item could be used as a car-seat cover, at the beach for a million-dollar tan, or in a myriad of other ways. And the financial windfall isn't supposed to shrink because the blanket is made of acrylic fibers.

To order, send \$19.95 per blanket (plus \$4 per order for shipping) to the American Numismatic Association MoneyMarket, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903, or call (719) 632-2646.

● **Money pouch.** This \$3.95 gift holds \$1,000 in genuine U.S. currency, but the "greenbacks" are shredded so that they can no longer be used as spending money. A mini-pouch with \$150 in shredded bills costs \$1 (plus shipping) from the MoneyMarket.

● **Ties.** For people who want to wear a symbol of wealth, the MoneyMarket offers a blue silk tie with a variety of international money symbols (such as the dollar sign) in red, or a polyester tie adorned with miniature money bags. Each costs \$18, plus \$4 per order for shipping.

● **A bag of "wheat pennies."** Create hours of collecting fun by giving a heap of Lincoln cents made in 1958 and earlier. SilverTowne in Winchester, Ind., sells such coins by the bag, "guaranteed unsearched" and "shipped just as they are received from broken collections, accumulators, hoarders and dealers' stocks."

SilverTowne charges \$32 for a bag of 1,000 wheat cents and \$110 for 5,000 coins, plus shipping (call 1-800-788-7481). Some Chicago-area dealers might be able to beat that price (check Yellow Pages of phone book for names of dealers in your area). Most hobbyists also would appreciate receiving at least two Lincoln-cent folders and coin tubes to use in sorting their "wheaties."